



# National Information Assurance Partnership

## Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme

### CCEVS Policy Letter #11

28 September 2005

SUBJECT: Candidate CCTL Policy

**PURPOSE:** This policy provides the CCEVS requirements for Candidate Common Criteria Testing Laboratories (CCTLs) to attain their listing and continue to be listed on the CCEVS website. CCEVS maintains the Candidate CCTL list in order to help these labs attract a sponsor for their first evaluation.

**BACKGROUND:** Detailed NVLAP requirements for Candidate CCTLs are listed in NIST Handbook 150, *Procedures and General Requirements*, and NIST Handbook 150-20, *NVLAP Information Technology Security Testing - Common Criteria*. All Candidate CCTLs must satisfy the general requirements specified in NIST Handbook 150, and be compliant with NIST Handbook 150-20, which presents the technical requirements and guidance for the accreditation of laboratories under the NVLAP Common Criteria Testing Laboratory Accreditation Process. Additionally, Candidate CCTLs must follow all documented CCEVS Publications and Policies.

In order to be listed on the CCEVS website, initial NVLAP requirements must be met by a candidate CCTL. These requirements are:

- A positive NVLAP review of the laboratory quality system documentation,
- A successful NVLAP initial on-site assessment visit, and
- Possess the resources and the technical competence to successfully complete an evaluation.

**POLICY:** A Candidate CCTL may reference its CCEVS website listing for the sole purpose of seeking an initial evaluation. The website listing may not be used as a marketing tool for other business functions of the Candidate CCTL.

A candidate CCTL will be allowed 18 months from the time of its CCEVS website listing to initiate and complete an initial evaluation. It is important to note that successful completion of the initial evaluation must demonstrate that:

- the laboratory has evaluated the evidence and provided accurate verdicts for all appropriate assurance classes;
- the laboratory staff has demonstrated its understanding of and competence to apply the Common Criteria and Common Evaluation Methodology during the initial evaluation;
- the laboratory has exercised its quality system and has produced appropriate records of all evaluation activities.

After 18 months, if an initial evaluation has not been successfully completed, the Candidate CCTL will be removed from the website, and CCEVS resources will be removed from all ongoing evaluations within the Candidate CCTL.

CCEVS may also remove resources and/or remove the Candidate CCTL from the website at any time. Reasons for removal include, but are not limited to, technical incompetence, unethical practices, inadequate staffing levels, and notification by NVLAP that the candidate lab has failed to meet NVLAP requirements.

If a Candidate CCTL is removed from the website and/or has CCEVS resources removed, they must demonstrate to CCEVS and NVLAP that the reason for removal has been corrected. If CCEVS and NVLAP agree that the issue has been resolved satisfactorily, then the Candidate CCTL may be posted to the CCEVS website, and CCEVS resources may be reassigned when they become available.

A candidate CCTL may request to be removed from the CCEVS website at any time.

**Original Signed By**

AUDREY M. DALE  
Director